

HOUSE BILL 891

Q3

5lr1933

By: **Delegates Vogel and Foley**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Income Tax – Local Newsroom Tax Credit**

3 FOR the purpose of allowing certain local newsrooms to claim a credit against the State
4 income tax for wages paid during the taxable year to certain local newsroom
5 employees, subject to certain limitations; and generally relating to an income tax
6 credit for local newsrooms for the employment of local newsroom employees.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Tax – General

9 Section 10–758

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Tax – General**

15 **10–758.**

16 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
17 **INDICATED.**

18 **(2) (I) “LOCAL NEWSROOM” MEANS A NEWS ORGANIZATION THAT:**

19 **1. PRIMARILY COVERS LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE**
20 **STATE;**

21 **2. EMPLOYS AT LEAST ONE FULL–TIME LOCAL**
22 **NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **3. HAS BEEN PUBLISHING OR BROADCASTING NEWS FOR**
2 **AT LEAST 1 YEAR; AND**

3 **4. CARRIES A MEDIA LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY AT**
4 **ALL TIMES DURING A TAXABLE YEAR.**

5 **(II) "LOCAL NEWSROOM" DOES NOT INCLUDE A NEWS**
6 **ORGANIZATION THAT IS OWNED OR FUNDED BY A POLITICAL ADVOCACY GROUP,**
7 **INCLUDING AN ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY**
8 **UNDER § 501(C) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.**

9 **(3) "LOCAL NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE" MEANS AN EMPLOYEE ENGAGED**
10 **OR ASSISTING IN THE GATHERING, PREPARING, COLLECTING, WRITING,**
11 **RECORDING, DIRECTING THE RECORDING, PRODUCING, EDITING,**
12 **PHOTOGRAPHING, REPORTING, PRESENTING, OR PUBLISHING OF LOCAL**
13 **COMMUNITY NEWS IN THE STATE FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

14 **(B) (1) SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION, FOR EACH**
15 **TAXABLE YEAR A LOCAL NEWSROOM MAY CLAIM A CREDIT AGAINST THE STATE**
16 **INCOME TAX FOR EACH FULL-TIME LOCAL NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE EMPLOYED BY**
17 **THE LOCAL NEWSROOM IN AN AMOUNT UP TO:**

18 **(I) \$25,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO EACH FULL-TIME LOCAL**
19 **NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE FOR THE FIRST TAXABLE YEAR THAT THE LOCAL NEWSROOM**
20 **CLAIMS THE CREDIT FOR THAT LOCAL NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE; AND**

21 **(II) \$15,000 OF THE WAGES PAID TO EACH FULL-TIME LOCAL**
22 **NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT TAXABLE YEAR THAT THE LOCAL**
23 **NEWSROOM CLAIMS THE CREDIT FOR THAT LOCAL NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE.**

24 **(2) A LOCAL NEWSROOM MAY NOT CLAIM A TAX CREDIT UNDER THIS**
25 **SECTION FOR MORE THAN 5 TAXABLE YEARS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL LOCAL**
26 **NEWSROOM EMPLOYEE.**

27 **(C) IF THE TAX CREDIT ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ANY TAXABLE**
28 **YEAR EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TAX OTHERWISE PAYABLE BY THE LOCAL NEWSROOM**
29 **FOR THAT TAXABLE YEAR, THE LOCAL NEWSROOM MAY CLAIM A REFUND IN THE**
30 **AMOUNT OF THE EXCESS.**

31 **(D) A LOCAL NEWSROOM THAT IS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)**
32 **OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE MAY APPLY THE CREDIT UNDER THIS SECTION**

1 AS A CREDIT FOR THE PAYMENT TO THE COMPTROLLER OF TAXES THAT THE LOCAL
2 NEWSROOM:

3 (1) IS REQUIRED TO WITHHOLD FROM THE WAGES OF EMPLOYEES
4 UNDER § 10-908 OF THIS TITLE; AND

5 (2) IS REQUIRED TO PAY TO THE COMPTROLLER UNDER § 10-906(A)
6 OF THIS TITLE.

7 (E) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE
8 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
10 1, 2025, and shall be applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.